

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
IP Augusta Caustic Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #1
Final Polrep - Response to Caustic Waste Water
IP Augusta Caustic Spill
B49U
Augusta, GA
Latitude: 33.3265140 Longitude: -81.9547620

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPB
Jerry Campbell, GAEPD

From: Terry Stilman, OSC

Date: 2/18/2017

Reporting Period: 2/16/17 to 2/17/2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B49U	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	2/16/2017	Start Date:	2/16/2017
Demob Date:	2/17/2017	Completion Date:	2/17/2017
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response to Caustic Waste Water release.

1.1.2 Site Description

International Paper (IP) paper production facility.

1.1.2.1 Location

The IP facility is located in Augusta, Georgia adjacent to the Savannah River.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Caustic Waste Water released from the IP facility threatened the Savannah River and downstream water users.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

At approximately 0845 a pumping station failed at the International Paper facility in Augusta, Georgia, causing a backup of caustic waste destined for the on-site treatment plant. The waste overflowed the system and released onto the surrounding soil and adjacent drainage ditch. The waste had a pH of 13. The facility reported the waste water releasing at a rate of 125,000 gallons/hour. The facility hired a response contractor to address the release. OSC Stilman and GAEPD were deployed to the scene

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

OSC Stilman was dispatched to the International Paper (IP) facility in Augusta, GA, to the scene of a reported 300,000 gallon caustic waste water spill. The release was caused by a malfunctioning lift station pump. Georgia EPD also responded. Once on scene, OSC Stilman learned the actual amount of material released was well below initial estimates. Caustic wastewater flowed overland towards on-site wetlands and a Georgia permitted outfall to the Savannah River. IP applied absorbent material and ensured waste waters were diverted to on-site impoundments. No waste water reached the Savannah River.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Excavation of impacted soil was conducted on 2/17/2017. Excavated soils were placed within the facility's on-site landfill. GAEPD advised the facility on final cleanup and water quality monitoring.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The facility is owned by International Paper. IP has hired a response contractor to complete excavation activities.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
contaminated soils		10 cubic yards			Landfill

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

IP will continue to monitor water within the impacted stream and outfall to the Savannah River. As of 2/17/2017, waste water at the outfall a measured pH of 7.81. The normal pH range at the outfall is between 7.54 and 7.91. IP conducts continuous monitoring as per a Georgia issued discharge permit.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

No further actions are anticipated by EPA at this time.

2.3 Logistics Section

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2.4 Finance Section

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2.5 Other Command Staff

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3. Participating Entities

International Paper
USEPA
GAEPD

4. Personnel On Site

IP - 10
EPA - 1
GAEPD - 1

5. Definition of Terms

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6. Additional sources of information

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7. Situational Reference Materials

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